

Prayer List



Of Our Number

- ◆ Janice Carnley—Shoal Creek
- ◆ Jennifer Derrick—vertigo
- ◆ Wilfred Derrick—health problems
- ◆ Amanda Hilburn—hurt her back
- ◆ Jeff Mashburn—health problems
- ◆ Peggy Preece—health problems

Others in Need

- ◆ Rhonda Compton—surg. recovery
- ◆ Danny Davis—back pain
- ◆ Louise Douglas—health problems
- ◆ Elocio (Chuck Arnett's father-in-law)—health problems
- ◆ Joyce Faulk—health problems
- ◆ Dawn Holloway—Sacred Heart
- ◆ Tony Jones—Parkinson's
- ◆ Kyla, Denise Vincent's daughter—pregnancy complications
- ◆ Mary Milsted—lung cancer
- ◆ Harold Moore—spine surgery
- ◆ Thomas Patterson—health issues
- ◆ Shane Price—cancer
- ◆ Jason Rickmon—cancer, chemo

Continued in next column...

- ◆ Larry Shappley—hospice care
- ◆ Melanie Skinner—cancer
- ◆ Sidney White—stroke recovery
- ◆ Pray for Christians overseas, such as those facing persecution in Pakistan and certain parts of India.
- ◆ Pray for peace, pray for the bereaved, the persecuted, sick/suffering, civil leaders, military, 1st responders, sound Bible schools, the lost, enemies.

To Our Visitors



We are happy and honored that you are here! Please fill out a visitor's card and give us a chance to get to know you. If you have any questions about anything said or done in Bible class or worship, please ask. We seek to give a Bible answer for everything we do (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15; 4:11).

Privileged to Serve



Announcements—Glenn Howze
Song Leading—Sunday—David Howze; Wednesday—Ethan Howze
Serving the Lord's Supper
 Head: Johnny Moss; Helpers: Leo Derrick, Caleb Howze, Mark Howze
Lord's Supper PM
 Head: Glenn Howze
 Helper: Ethan Howze
Scripture Reading—Ezra Howze

Events



July 7
Meal after AM Worship

July 14
Monthly Men's Meeting

Faithful Worship — **1) Praying** to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 11:1-2; John 16:23; Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6); **2) Singing** without mechanical instruments (Matt. 26:30; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16-17; Heb. 2:12); **3) Preaching** God's Word (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:42; 20:7); **4) Giving** weekly as prospered, cheerfully (1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:7); **5) The Lord's Supper** on the first day of every week (Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; 16:2; Heb. 10:23-31).

THE BAKER BULLETIN

The weekly bulletin of

The church of Christ in Baker, FL

June 30, 2024

Meeting Times

Sundays:

10AM Bible Class
 11AM Worship
 6PM Worship

Wednesdays:

7PM Bible Class

Other Information

5761 Hwy. 4
 P.O. Box 285
 Baker, FL 32531 USA
 850-669-9117

Website:

churchofChristatBaker.com

Radio Program:

104.7FM Sundays 8:30AM
 WAAZ1047.com livestream

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The Medo-Persian Kings Cyrus and Darius (Part 5)

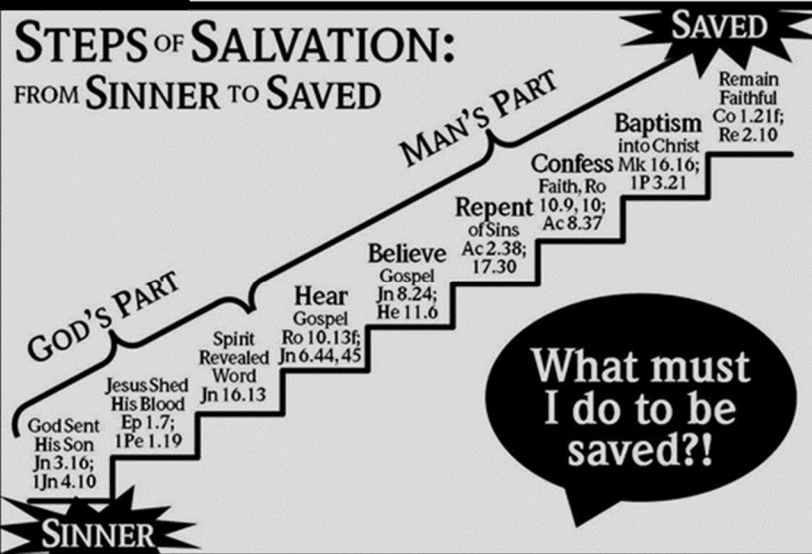
Jason Patrick Hilburn

The restoration of the Jews had not only been foretold by Isaiah, but later God revealed more details through men like Ezekiel (Eze. 37), Daniel (Dan. 2; 5), and Jeremiah (Jer. 25:11-12; 29:10; 51:11). Jeremiah had foretold that the captivity of God's people in Babylon would last seventy years (25:11-12; 29:10), and through Cyrus, this prophecy was about to be fulfilled!

Jeremiah's prophecy of the seventy years of captivity is of great significance. In the Law, God had warned the people that, if they were disobedient, they would be taken captive and their land would be desolate. The land would enjoy its sabbaths during this time, making up for the period of Israel's rebellion (Lev. 26:34, 35). The chronicler wove Jeremiah's seventy years together with this idea of sabbath rest in 2 Chronicles 36:20, 21. The chronicler went on to say that God stirred up Cyrus to send the Jews back to Jerusalem to rebuild His temple—in fulfillment of His word to Jeremiah (2 Chron. 36:22, 23). The ending of 2 Chronicles is parallel to the beginning of the Book of Ezra, which also references Jeremiah's prophecy and God's stirring of the king's spirit (Ezra 1:1-4). Cyrus conquered the Babylonians in 539 B.C. and issued his decree for the Jews to return in 538 B.C....This return likely occurred in 536 B.C., but some think it took place the same year as the decree...If 536 B.C. is correct, then 'seventy' is an exact

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

"...ye were the servants of sin..."
 (Romans 6:17).



What must I do to be saved?!

"...but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Rom. 6:17b-18).

number...If 538 B.C. is correct, then 'seventy' is a round number (Myers 304).

Keil and Delitzsch wrote that Jeremiah's prophecy began with "...the year 606 b.c.; hence the seventy years terminate in 536 b.c., the first year of the sole rule of Cyrus over the Babylonian empire." Gill commented that the first year of Cyrus and Darius is assigned different dates by different scholars: "Bishop Usher (z) and Mr. Whiston (a)...[place it] in the year of the world 3467 A.M. and 537 B.C. Dean Prideaux (b) places it in the year 538; and Mr. Bedford (c) in the year 536." Clayton Winters gave the following dates:

EVENT	DATE
Cyrus issued the decree of return (Ezr. 1:2-4)	538 B.C.
Reconstruction of the temple began (Ezr. 3:8)	536 B.C.
Opposition to the temple project (Ezr. 4:6)	530 B.C.
Decree issued to stop the temple construction (Ezr. 4:7-23)	522 B.C.
Work on the temple resumed (Ezr. 4:24 ; 6:3-12)	519 B.C.
The temple completed (Ezr. 6:15)	515 B.C.
Ezra began his work in Jerusalem (Ezr. 7:8,9)	458 B.C.
Ezra's work completed (Ezr. 10:17)	457 B.C.
Nehemiah's return to rebuild (Neh. 2:5ff)	445 B.C.

Although Cyrus fulfilled God's will in his decree for the Jews to return and rebuild, after the decree he seemed to detach himself from such matters. When the Samaritans opposed the rebuilding of the temple, there is no evidence from Ezra that Cyrus made any effort on behalf of the Jews to help them complete their task:

Then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, And hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose, all the days of Cyrus king of Persia [9 years], even until the reign of Darius king of Persia. And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, wrote they unto him an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem (Ezra 4:4-6; cf. 6:1-12; Turner, *Daniel* 308).

The truth is that although Cyrus was an important person in God's Plan, Cyrus was not fully dedicated to serving and worshiping the one true God. Ancient historical writings and archaeological discoveries have made that clear.

...though this Cyrus was a great humanitarian, he was no worshiper of Jehovah as the one and only God. Cyrus was originally a worshiper of Marduk. Anyway, Cyrus believed that every man had a right to worship the god of his choice; and thus he allowed all captive peoples to return to their homelands, and he allowed them to carry their gods with them (Turner, *Daniel* 307).

There is more inspired Text regarding Cyrus the Great in books like Isaiah and Ezra than Daniel, but Cyrus is mentioned by name three times in the Book of Daniel: "And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus" (1:21); "So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian" (6:28); and "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision" (10:1).

...allowing that Daniel was seventeen years of age when he was carried captive to Babylon in 605 BC, he would have been a minimum of 82 to 84 years of age when Cyrus entered Babylon as the great Persian ruler. The date was October 29, 539 BC. Under Cyrus, Darius ruled as governor. In time Cambyses, the son of Cyrus, ruled as co-regent, and Cyrus himself held the title "King of the Lands." In 530 BC Cyrus was slain in battle in the northeast territory, and Cambyses became king.

In short, Cyrus' reign after he reached Babylon was a period of nine years; during that nine year period, Daniel prospered. He was some 91 to 92 years of age at the end of the reign of Cyrus (Turner, *Daniel* 205).

Pfeiffer noted the following about Cyrus' reign:

Cyrus proved to be a generous conqueror. Although he did not hesitate to plunder the wealth of Ecbatana, the Median capital, the city itself was spared and became one of the capitals of the Medo-Persian Empire. Many of the Median officials were kept at their posts. This policy of clemency was new in the politics of the Near East, but it was to characterize the reign of Cyrus.

With the conquest of Media, Cyrus fell heir to Median claims in Assyria, Mesopotamia, Syria, Armenia, and Cappadocia. Some of these claims conflicted with those of Babylon, and we read no more of an alliance between Babylon and Cyrus. Beside the Medo-Persian Empire there were now three great powers—Lydia, Babylonia, and Egypt. The first two of these were subdued by Cyrus himself. His son Cambyses was to conquer the third (501).

Dan Cates wrote:

By the time his reign ended, Cyrus had survived numerous attempts on his life, had united Media and Persia, and had defeated the Lydians and the Babylonians and the Egyptians. More important than these accomplishments is the fact that he fulfilled prophecy, being the Lord's shepherd when he released the Jewish captives from Babylonian captivity.
To be continued next week, Lord willing...